

Message Text

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16

ACTION AID-20

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FM AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7776

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MANILA PASS AID/LAB

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ELAB MY

SUBJ: YEOH TECK CHYE DEFEATED AS NUBE PRESIDENT

1. KL "STRAITS TIMES" SUNDAY GAVE FRONT PAGE ATTENTION TO DEFEAT OF NATIONAL UNION OF BANK EMPLOYEES' (NUBE) PRESIDENT YEOH TECK CHYE BY OOI REPEAT OOI YONG KEONG OF PENANG. YOEH WAS DEFEATED IN ELECTIONS HELD AUGUST 17 WHICH ALSO SAW REPLACEMENT OF ENTIRE LEADERSHIP OF NUBE INCLUDING A.M. JOHN, SECRETARY GENERAL SINCE 1964, WHO WAS REPLACED BY A.R. FERNANDEZ. YEOH HAS BEEN PRESIDENT OF THE MALAYSIAN TRADES UNION CONGRESS (MTUC) SINCE 1965 AND LAST YEAR WAS ELECTED ASIAN CHAIRMAN OF INTERNATIONAL FEDERATION OF COMMERCIAL CLERICAL AND TECHNICAL EMPLOYEES (FIET). IN 1969 HE WAS ELECTED TO PARLIAMENT AS A MEMBER OF GERAKAN BUT SWITCHED TO THE SOCIAL JUSTICE PARTY (PEKEMAS) IN 1971. HE IS CURRENTLY RUNNING FOR REELECTION FROM KL'S BANDAR CONSTITUENCY.

2. ACCORDING TO "STRAITS TIMES", YEOH'S DEFEAT WAS DUE TO UNHAPPINESS OF SEVERAL NUBE LOCALS IN PENANG AND PERAK WITH YEOH'S POLITICAL ACTIVITIES. YEOH TOLD PRESS HIS OPPONENTS HAD PROMISED SECURE MINIMUM MONTHLY WAGE OF M\$300

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(US \$125) FOR MALAYSIAN BANKING INDUSTRY, ACCUSED HIM OF

BEING A "DICTATOR" AND CLAIMED HE NEGLECTED HIS UNION RESPONSIBILITIES FOR POLITICS.

3. COMMENT: YEOH, WHO REPORTEDLY OWES HIS MTUC POSITION TO FACT NUBE IS ONE OF MOST SOLVENT OF MALAYSIAN UNIONS (IT ONE OF FEW THAT HAS THE CHECK-OFF), IS NOT A PIVOTAL FIGURE IN MTUC WHICH IS DOMINATED BY ITS SEC GEN, S.J.H. ZAIDE. RUMOR HAS IT THAT HE WAS DEFEATED AT INSTIGATION OF GERAKAN PARTY PRESIDENT AND PENANG CHIEF MINISTER LIM CHONG EU. SINCE HE IS NOT LIKELY TO BE REAPPOINTED TO MTUC PRESIDENCY AT ANNUAL DELEGATES' CONFERENCE IN THIRD WEEK OF DECEMBER AND IS QUITE LIKELY TO LOOSE HIS PARLIAMENTARY CONTEST, YEOH WILL BE LEFT WITH NOTHING BUT HIS FIET JOB AND HIS POSITION AS SENIOR EMPLOYEE OF HONG KONG SHANGHAI BANK BY END OF YEAR.
UNDERHILL

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